and surgery which was envisaged to be introduced to enable students of Electropathy and Electro-Homoeopathy to acquire the proposed qualification. The proposal sought to amend the Bombay Homoeopathic Practioners' Act, 1959, as the proposed amendment contravened the provisions of the Homoeopathic Central Council Act, 1973. As the Diploma Course in Homoeopathy has been stopped from 1999 onwards, the proposal of the State Government could not be agreed to. Besides the Central Council of Homoeopathy also ruled out the possibility of introducing such a Diploma Course.

Regular licence for running blood Bank

4122. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed the peripheral centers and hospitals to store whole blood and blood components without having to obtain regular licence for running a blood bank;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for removing the restrictions; and

(d) the measures adopted to implement safety standards in procurement and storage by blood banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Many doctors working in the first referral units and other hospitals in the rural areas specially those working in the vicinity of the highways constantly complained of unavailability of blood. Also, for proper regulation of the system small number of blood banks is ideal whereas in large cities and towns the number of blood banks have been increasing, as all hospital small and big were establishing their own blood banks. Private blood banks working on small scales for supplying blood to many private nursing homes were also mushrooming. In all these situations establishment of Blood Storage Centre instead of a full fledged Blood Bank will serve the purpose of making available, adequate quantity of safe blood to those in need.

(d) Specific guidelines regarding safety standards in procurement and storage for Blood Storage Centres have been drawn up and circulated to State Health Secretaries, Directorate of Health Services, State AIDS Control Societies and State Blood Transfusion Councils for further dissemination.